

81
~~Top Secret~~

YUGOSLAVIA: Death Toll Mounts in Kosovo

Yugoslav press reports say that about two dozen people have died in the current unrest in Kosovo Province as ethnic Albanians intensified their protests over the new amendments to Serbia's constitution. The government tightened security amid increased violence yesterday—including rock throwing, gunshots at police cordons, and attacks on a power plant and a police station; schools were closed, gatherings banned, and curfews ordered. [REDACTED] military units in Kosovo have increased readiness and [REDACTED] Army troops were leaving their garrisons. In what may have been a related development, someone threw molotov cocktails at a Yugoslav tourist office in Brussels this week. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The security clampdown probably will put an end to large demonstrations by the end of the week. The death toll in Kosovo now surpasses that given in official figures for the 1981 riots and is likely to rise. Reported Army movements seem intended to back up the police and to guard power stations, factories, and other key facilities. Violence and deaths may increase sharply if military units not prepared for riot control are used to confront demonstrators. The attack in Brussels, if perpetrated by Albanian emigres, might presage further attacks on Yugoslav interests in the West. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

~~Top Secret~~

29 March 1989